

Eastern Illinois University

The Keep

March

2021

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Eastern Illinois University

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FACULTY SENATE MEETING

The Faculty Seante will meet Tuesday afternoon to disucsss a plan for diversifying faculty and staff at Eastern.

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BASEBALL UPDATE

The Eastern baseball team is in eighth place in the OVC through two weekends of conference play.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

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CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COVERAGE

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CORRYN BROCK | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

University President David Glassman addresses students involved in a sit-in meant to protest for the group's preferred name for the LGBTQ+ living learning community coming next fall.

EIU Pride reaches community name agreement



By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

EIU Pride has reached an agreement with the university regarding the name of the LGBTQ+ living learning community coming to Eastern in the fall.

The agreement comes after multiple weeks of debate between the RSO and university officials. Following a sit-in Monday afternoon, the group has gained the support of the university for the committee to be named and advertised as the Doug DiBianco Community.

On Eastern's website describing the themed floors available to students, the section describing the gender inclusive community now states:

"The Doug DiBianco Learning Community is an inclusive community designed to create a comfortable and supportive environment for all students of all gender and sexual identities. Community members have the opportunity to connect with role models and allies at EIU. The community also has a partnership with the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity. You can request to live in this community by selecting "Gender Inclusive Housing" in your Room and Board Contract, and approval is granted through the GSD Center. View more information at eiu.edu/lgbtqa/gender_inclusiv_housing.php. For 2021-22, the Gender Inclusive Housing is located on a residential floor in McKinney Hall."

Dibianco taught for 32 years but also founded the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Allies Union that later became EIU Pride.

According to Sam Hennegan, EIU Pride President and junior English major, Dibianco's contribution means a lot to the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

"He was a person who provided a space for the LGBTQ community when we were not allowed on campus because EIU was not always accessible to our community," Hennegan said during a EIU Pride meeting with University President David Glassman, Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Flaherty and Vice President for University Advancement Ken Wetstein.

Hennegan expressed gratitude for the space

the community was given, but said it was important to them that the space was given DiBianco's name due to his contributions as an ally to the community and his dedication to creating a space for LGBTQ+ students at Eastern.

A post from Hennegan on EIU Pride's Facebook outline what exactly the RSO was seeking and why they were seeking it.

"We want the name to be on the housing application, the EIU website, and all marketing. After meeting with President Glassman we have been told that we can only have the name "unofficially". This means that EIU will not directly be calling it the Doug DiBianco community, but the students can call it that if they want," Hennegan said. "The reasons why we want his name is because of safety and to honor him. Many closeted students have their parents know where they live. The administration originally wanted it to be the Pride floor and by naming it after a person it decreases the likelihood that parents will question their housing assignment."

Before walking to Old Main students met at the Mellin Steps at the Doudna Fine Arts Center where they had chalked a variety of messages.

Messages included, "It's our community, let us name it!", DiBianco in bold letters and "It's LGBTQ+ not LQPAT."

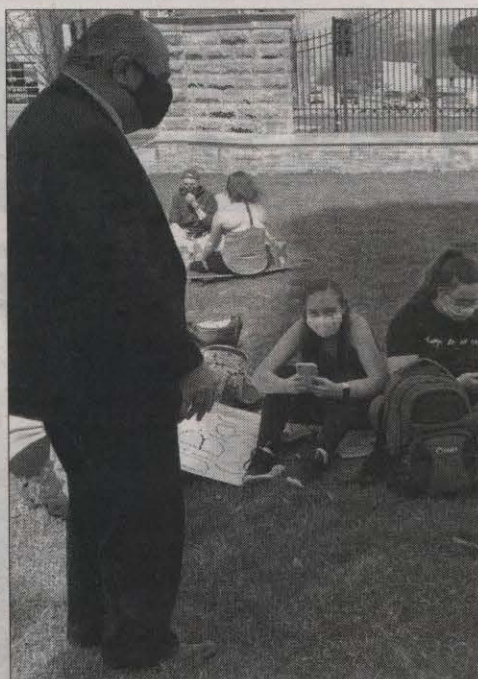
The message, "It's LGBTQ+ not LQPAT," was in reference to Glassman misspeaking during a meeting with the RSO and saying LGBTQIA+ incorrectly.

Many signs at the sit-in held the same sentiment as the chalked messages.

After discussion between Glassman and Hennegan Monday afternoon, it was realized there was miscommunication on what specifically was being asked of the university. Within twenty minutes of the sit-in the website was changed and updated to reflect what the group was looking for.

After the discussion was had between supporters of the living learning community's name and Glassman, a rainbow was visible over the castle. Many of those at the sit-in said they saw the rainbow as a good sign.

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CORRYN BROCK AND ELIZABETH TAYLOR | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

(Top) University President David Glassman addresses students on the name of the LGBTQ+ living learning community coming in Fall 2021.

(Left) Sam Hennegan, EIU Pride President and Vice President for Student Affairs Anne Flaherty discuss what the website will say for the living learning community.

(Right) University President David Glassman talks to students after coming to an agreement to name the living learning community after former Eastern professor Doug Dibianco.

Naming Committee to host forums throughout week

By John Wills
Staff Reporter | @DEN_news

The Eastern community will have an opportunity to share their opinion on the controversy surrounding the Douglas Hall name at upcoming forums hosted by the University Naming Committee.

The Naming Committee is hosting these public forums to gather the thoughts of stu-

dents, staff and faculty as they try to decide what recommendation to give to President Glassman later next month: to rename Douglas Hall, or to allow the name to remain in place.

The idea of renaming the hall has been visited 3 times in total, once now, once in 2010 and again in 2017. The first two times, the Naming Committee recommended to the President that the Douglas Hall name remain

in place. President Glassman asked the committee to revisit the issue in light of the 2020 resurgence Black Lives Matter movement, following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, among others. The final decision on the matter is expected before the end of April.

The committee is intended to include individuals from every core group in the campus community, so as to account for all voices on

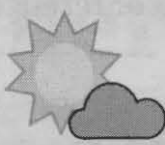
campus equally. Representatives on the committee serve from positions including Faculty, Staff and Student Senates, as well as CAA and the Council of Chairs.

Ken Wetstein is the ex-officio convener of the committee. He's responsible for the upkeep and logistics behind keeping the committee running and in order.

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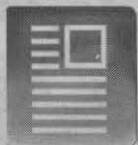
Local weather

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

Showers
High: 59°
Low: 52°Mostly Sunny
High: 65°
Low: 47°

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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STATE AND NATION

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AstraZeneca: US data shows vaccine effective for adults

WASHINGTON (AP) — AstraZeneca reported Monday that its COVID-19 vaccine provided strong protection among adults of all ages in a long-anticipated U.S. study, a finding that could help rebuild public confidence in the shot around the world and move it a step closer to clearance in the U.S.

In the study of 30,000 people, the vaccine was 79% effective at preventing symptomatic cases of COVID-19 — including in older adults. There were no severe illnesses or hospitalizations among vaccinated volunteers, compared with five such cases in participants who received dummy shots — a small number, but consistent with findings from Britain and other countries that the vaccine protects against the worst of the disease.

AstraZeneca also said the study's independent safety monitors found no serious side effects, including no increased risk of rare blood clots like those identified in Europe, a scare that led numerous countries to briefly suspend vaccinations last week.

"I do hope it puts to bed any doubts about the vaccine efficacy," Mene Pangalos, AstraZeneca's biopharmaceuticals research chief, told The Associated Press. "Overall where the vaccine is being used, it's been shown to be highly effective. So I hope that the U.S. study now will continue to give the vaccine some momentum and get it used even further around the world."

The company aims to file an application with the Food and Drug Administration in the coming weeks, and

the government's outside advisers will publicly debate the evidence before the agency makes a decision. Pangalos said the vaccine could win emergency authorization toward the second half of April. If so, the company would deliver 30 million doses immediately and an additional 20 million within the first month.

What that will mean for America's vaccination plans is unclear. The Biden administration already projects there will be enough doses for all adults by the end of May thanks to increasing supplies from the makers of the three vaccines already in use in the U.S. — Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Federal officials said they didn't want to prejudge the FDA's review but cast the AstraZeneca findings as a victory both for the U.S. supply and the global fight against the virus.

"There are very many countries in Europe and throughout the world who have already authorized this, so the fact that a United States-run study has confirmed the efficacy and the safety of this vaccine I think is an important contribution to global health in general," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert.

The AstraZeneca shot, which has been authorized in more than 70 countries, is a pillar of a U.N.-backed project known as COVAX that aims to get COVID-19 vaccines to poorer countries. It has also become a key tool in European countries' efforts to boost their sluggish vaccine rollouts. That made doubts about the shots especially worrying.

Group wants answers on dead birds near Indiana-Illinois lake

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP) — The deaths of several geese, ducks and other birds around a lake in northwestern Indiana and northeastern Illinois have environmentalists and some area residents seeking answers from officials.

About 10 protesters held a demonstration Friday near Wolf Lake, demanding transparency on how the birds died, the Post-Tribune reported Monday.

"Those geese are big and if it's something naturally causing it, we're not pointing fingers," said Marisa Rowden, administrator for the environmental group Save Whiting and Neighbors. "We just want to be in the know."

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources said it received reports of the dead waterfowl and dead fish dating back to mid-February. The cause of death is still under investigation.

Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. said in a statement that the city's

water sampling on March 11 around Wolf Lake and soil tests for toxic metals using an X-ray fluorescence analyzer did not return unusual results.

"Many different theories have been put forth as the cause including the harsh winter weather in February, an avian cholera outbreak (for the bird deaths), as well as nonnatural, human-made causes," he said.

Leo Mores, 60, of Robertsdale, said earlier this month he found at least 20 dead birds that seemed to be geese, ducks and coots dead along the shoreline.

"It was all concentrated," Mores said.

After coming across the dead birds, Mores called the state DNR, which is investigating the deaths with the state Department of Environmental Management, according to a March 4 joint press release.

The agencies have asked the public to avoid the area as they examine all causes of death, including natural causes.

14th juror seated for ex-officer's trial in Floyd's death

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A 14th juror was seated Monday for the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death, nearly completing the panel ahead of opening statements next week.

The newest juror is a white social worker in her 20s who said she has talked with friends about police reform and that she thinks "there are things that should

be changed." But she also described police and their jobs as important, and said she is "always looking at every side of things."

Other potential jurors were dismissed earlier in the day.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill said Friday that he wanted to select 15 jurors, with 12 to deliberate and three alternates who will deliberate only if needed.



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» FORUMS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The committee is constructed intentionally to bring the perspectives of various on-campus constituencies into play,” Wetstein said. “that’s meant to bring a diversity of opinions and perspectives, and part of the role of those individuals, as I expect, is to make sure that they’re touching base with the constituency that they represent.”

There will be multiple forums throughout the coming week to allow members of different communities surrounding the Douglas Hall name to speak their mind. This ensures that each group of people is equally represented in the ongoing debate. One forum, for Eastern staff, took place

March 18th.

A forum for Eastern faculty will be held March 23rd at 3p.m. Interested parties can contact Don Holly at dholly@eiu.edu for log-in information.

An open forum for all Eastern students will be held March 23rd at 7 p.m. (Zoom Meeting ID: 919 6783 6019, Passcode: EIU1895)

An open forum for members of the Charleston community will be held March 25th at 7 p.m. (Zoom Meeting ID: 943 8017 6654, Passcode: EIU1895)

A forum for Eastern students affiliated with the Black Student Union, the Latin American Student Organization, Alpha Psi Lambda, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and Eastern’s chapter of the NAACP will be held March 29th at 4 p.m. Interested parties can contact Mona

Davenport at mydavenport@eiu.edu for log-in information.

A forum for Eastern students affiliated with Eastern’s Student Government, the Interfraternity Council and PanHellenic Council will be held March 30th at 4 p.m. Interested parties can contact Mona Davenport at mydavenport@eiu.edu for log-in information.

A forum for Eastern Students affiliated with Eastern’s Residence Hall Association will be held April 1st at 5 p.m. Interested parties can contact Ken Wetstein at kawetstein@eiu.edu for log-in information.

All forums will be facilitated by members of the Naming Committee.

John Wills can be reached at 581-2812 or at jmwills@eiu.edu.



ELIZABETH WOOD | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

University President David Glassman speaks to students about the naming processes at Eastern. The discussion was prompted by EIU Pride wanting to name the living learning community for LGBTQ+ students to be named after former professor Doug DiBianco.

Faculty Senate to meet Tuesday to discuss diversifying, forums

By Corryn Brock
News Editor | @corryn_brock

Faculty Senate will meet Tuesday afternoon.

The Senate will give feedback on the Quality Initiative Proposal that is focused on diversifying Eastern’s faculty and staff.

According to a description of the initiative on Eastern’s website, “The primary goal of the project is to increase student success (e.g., retention, academic achievement, and graduate rates) by increasing the diversity of EIU’s faculty and staff to levels that are representative of the increasing diversity of the institution’s student population.”

According to research in a draft of findings by subcommittees focused on

diversification, Eastern currently has the lowest percentage of employees from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, totaled across all employee classifications.

“At Eastern, the largest increase in underrepresented students has been in those who identify as African American (7% in 2005 to 14.7% in 2020) and Hispanic (2% in 2005 to 11.7% in 2020). Though the student demographics have been changing, the faculty and staff populations have remained predominantly White, creating a growing racial gap between students and those who serve them,” according to the proposal. “This increasing disparity creates an urgent need for the institution to take more aggressive action to create an organization that, both in spirit and in visible presence of people of color in positions

of power, reflect our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity.”

The Senate will also hear from Vice President of University Advancement and Chair of the Naming Committee Angie Campbell during its meeting.

A forum for faculty regarding the potential renaming of Douglas Hall will be held via Zoom Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Committee reports will be given on the Executive Committee, Elections and Nominations, the Student Senate, the Student and Staff Relations Committee, the Awards Committee and the Faculty Forum Committee. The committee will also hear from Provost Jay Garrell and Faculty Senate Chair Don Holly.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

» PRIDE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Previously, Glassman and Wetstein said at an RSO meeting the naming process is not as simple as selecting a name significant to EIU Pride.

The men explained that while in the past it was common practice to name buildings after established members of the university community, now university naming strongly follows in the footsteps of philanthropy and donations to the university.

The floor is an option for students applying for housing for next year.

While it is primarily open for who identify as LGBTQ+, it is also for allies of the LGBTQ+ commu-

nity. Students who are not out are able to live on the floor as well, the website states: “We hope you can see this as a place where you can be yourself and be anywhere in your identity journey.”

The floor is different from others in that its programming will be focused on LGBTQIA+ identities. The floor will also have a close relationship with the Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity.

The website states, “We hope that this floor provides a space for students to live without having to justify their identity!”

The community will be starting in McKinney Hall will the potential of moving at the community grows.

Corryn Brock can be reached at 581-2812 or at cebrock@eiu.edu.

OPINIONS

STAFF EDITORIAL

More DiBiancos, less Douglasses

EIU Pride gave us an example of how powerful students can be when they share their voice on what matters most to them.

Tuesday, the group ended a weeks-long back and forth with Eastern’s administration regarding the name of the space that will house an LGBTQ community next fall. The living learning community will be beneficial for the students living in it, but now also holds the name of someone important to the LGBTQ community specifically at Eastern.

Doug DiBianco received the honor of having his name attached to the LGBTQ community because of his dedication to the community at Eastern throughout his career and for starting the first group for LGBTQ students at Eastern.

Though with research you will find that DiBianco was a controversial figure at Eastern for his “art appreciation” as described by a student in a Letter to the Editor to The Daily Eastern News following his death in 2011. However, when you take the good with the bad and consider what he did for a group of students who often face discrimination, he is deserving of recognition and a naming honor.

His name will follow in the footsteps of other individuals whose contributions to

this university and the world.

It will now forever be attached to Eastern, much like the name of Stephen Douglas.

As most people now know, Douglas was a racist who advocated for slavery and thought of Black people as subhuman. He also has a residence hall at Eastern that bears his name.

This week forums will continue to allow members of the Eastern community and surrounding communities to debate and discuss whether or not the name of Douglas Hall should be changed.

When attending these forums, which we at The Daily Eastern News highly recommend, consider what makes someone deserving of having their name honored at this institution.

What makes someone deserving of that high honor at a university that is “committed to diversity and inclusion,” like Eastern’s mission statement claims?

Is it someone who would not be able to see the value of the people of color at Eastern? Or perhaps is it someone who fights for others and their rights.

You have the chance to say who does and does not deserve naming recognition at Eastern this week. Let them know.

COLUMN

Police militarization in LEGO City is ridiculous

We have a lot of things laying around the newsroom here at The Daily Eastern News.

We have normal things like pens and notepads and seasonal things like our Christmas tree, which is still up and is now our Easter tree. We also have inexplicably random things.

One of the random things we have is a LEGO City Sky Police Jet Patrol kit. This highlights a problem that has become a part of public discourse in recent years; the militarization of police forces.

We hear about it in places like Los Angeles and Chicago, but in LEGO City, the problem seems to be completely out of control.

The Sky Police Jet Patrol is, as you may have guessed, a small jet fighter that can be used by a LEGO City Police pilot to patrol the skies of the plastic metropolis.

But what crimes could possibly be committed in LEGO City that would require a supersonic death machine?

On the box, the plane is shown being used to swoop down on a robber who is cracking an outdoor safe with



Adam Tumino

two red jewels in it.

Why the safe is outside is unknown. On the front of the box, the plane is flying dangerously close to the criminal’s head as he reaches into the open safe.

On the back of the box, the pilot has landed his plane and is running on foot toward the criminal with handcuffs in hand. The criminal has somehow managed to take just one red jewel out of the safe in the time it took to pilot to see the crime and then land and get out of his jet.

He is likely arrested and entered into the LEGO City legal system, which is surely an unholy nightmare.

Why did the criminal not run away

when he saw the police jet fly overhead, circle several times and then land mere feet away?

This, along with the fact that the criminal was cracking this safe outdoors in broad daylight, highlights the ineptitude of LEGO City’s criminal population.

With criminals so helpless, why does the police department need a fighter jet to stop them?

It is a reckless waste of LEGO taxpayer dollars.

No wonder there are so many criminals in LEGO City. There must be no money left to properly fund schools.

A subpar education system would also explain why the criminals in LEGO City are so incredibly stupid and bad at crime.

Until the LEGO City government gets its act together, the police there will continue to be disproportionately funded. This is a deep-rooted problem.

Adam Tumino is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or at ajtumino@eiu.edu.

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